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PROGRAM News

STATION CNN TV

DATE August 8, 1983 4:45 PM CITY Atlanta

SUBJECT D'Escoto/CIA/Chile

NEWSCASTER: CNN's special assignment unit has learned one the leading critics of US involvement in Central America played a surprisingly different role during one of the most controversial periods of US foreign policy.

Special assignment correspondent Joe Trento reports.

JOE TRENTO: CNN has learned that Miguel D'Escoto, the bitterly anti-American Foreign Minister of Nicaragua and a Roman Catholic priest once worked with the CIA in Chile in the late 1960's.

CNN has learned that D'Escoto worked for Roger Vekermans [?] a Belgian Jesuit who has funneled millions in CIA and foreign assistance funds to elect candidates in Chile during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations.

According to a top CIA official, and a former US ambassador to Chile, D'Escoto passed CIA funds to US-backed Chilean candidates.

Edward M. Kory served as US ambassador to Chile between 1967 and 1971.

Kory revealed D'Escoto's CIA connections in a recent interview near his Connecticut home.

AMBASSADOR EDWARD M. KORY: If you take the spokesman of a Sandanista government -- the foreign minister of a Sandanista government, a Mary Knoll priest named Miguel D'Escoto -- well,